

IN THE CLAIMS:

The status of each claim that has been introduced in the above-referenced application is identified in the ensuing listing of the claims. This listing of the claims replaces all previously submitted claims listings.

1. (Currently amended) A breath collection system for use in obtaining metabolic measurements from an individual's respiration, comprising:
a breathing apparatus configured to communicate with at least a mouth of the individual; and
a conduit including a first end coupled to a mouthpiece and a second end configured to be coupled to ~~an apparatus~~ apparatus for monitoring the individual's respiration, ~~said the~~ conduit including at least a section that is configured to be ~~placed into~~ formed to a desired ~~configuration~~ shape and that substantially maintains ~~said the~~ desired ~~configuration~~ shape until ~~placed in~~ formed to another desired ~~configuration~~ shape.

B1 2. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ breathing apparatus comprises a mouthpiece.

3. (Currently amended) The system of claim 2, wherein ~~said the~~ mouthpiece comprises a breathing end configured to be at least partially inserted into the mouth of the individual.

4. (Currently amended) The system of claim 3, wherein ~~said the~~ mouthpiece comprises a conduit coupling section oriented in an at least partially downwardly extending direction relative to ~~said the~~ breathing end, ~~said the~~ conduit coupling section being configured to be coupled to ~~said the~~ first end of ~~said the~~ conduit.

5. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ breathing apparatus comprises a mask configured to be placed over at least the mouth of the individual.

6. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~said~~the breathing apparatus comprises:

at least one inlet valve; and

at least one outlet valve.

7. (Currently amended) The system of claim 6, wherein ~~said~~the at least one inlet valve comprises a one-way valve that facilitates introduction of gases to be inhaled by the individual into ~~said~~the breathing apparatus.

8. (Currently amended) The system of claim 6, wherein ~~said~~the at least one inlet valve opens upon application of a negative pressure within ~~said~~the breathing apparatus.

B1 9. (Currently amended) The system of claim 6, wherein ~~said~~the at least one outlet valve comprises a one-way valve that facilitates evacuation of the individual's expiratory gases from ~~said~~the breathing apparatus.

10. (Currently amended) The system of claim 9, wherein ~~said~~the at least one outlet valve opens upon application of a positive pressure within ~~said~~the breathing apparatus.

11. (Currently amended) The system of claim 10, wherein ~~said~~the at least one outlet valve is positioned on at least one of a conduit coupling section of ~~said~~the breathing apparatus and an end of ~~said~~the conduit.

12. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein at least ~~said~~the section of ~~said~~the conduit comprises a longitudinally expandable and collapsible member.

13. (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein ~~said~~the longitudinally expandable and collapsible member comprises a section of corrugated tubing.

14. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein at least ~~said~~the section of ~~said~~the conduit carries at least one elongate compliant member.

15. (Currently amended) A breathing conduit, comprising:
a first end configured to be coupled to a breathing apparatus that is capable of communicating with at least a mouth of an individual;
a second end configured to be coupled to apparatus for monitoring the individual's respiration;
and
at least a section located between ~~said~~the first end and ~~said~~the second end and which is configured to be ~~placed into~~formed to a desired configurationshape and that substantially maintains ~~said~~the desired ~~configurationshape~~until placed informed to another desired ~~configurationshape~~.

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16. (Currently amended) The breathing conduit of claim 15, wherein at least ~~said~~the section is at least partially longitudinally collapsible and at least partially longitudinally expandable.

17. (Currently amended) The breathing conduit of claim 16, wherein at least ~~said~~the section comprises corrugated tubing.

18. (Currently amended) The breathing conduit of claim 15, wherein at least ~~said~~the section carries at least one elongate compliant member that is configured to be bent to shape at least ~~said~~the section into ~~said~~the desired ~~configurationshape~~and maintainsaidthe desired ~~configurationshape~~.

19. (Currently amended) A method for obtaining a resting metabolic rate of an individual, comprising:
placing the individual in a resting position;
coupling a breathing apparatus and conduit in communication therewith in flow communication

between an airway of the individual and an apparatus for monitoring the individual's respiration; and
~~manipulating~~forming at least a portion of ~~said~~the conduit ~~into to~~ a desired ~~configuration~~shape,
~~said~~the conduit being configured so as to substantially maintain ~~said~~the desired
~~configuration~~shape.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein ~~said~~ coupling comprises:
coupling ~~said~~the breathing apparatus in substantially fluid-tight connection to at least a mouth of
the individual; and
coupling ~~said~~the conduit in substantially fluid-tight communication to ~~said~~the apparatus.

B 1 21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein ~~said~~manipulatingforming
comprises at least one of at least partially longitudinally collapsing locations of at least ~~said~~the
portion and at least partially longitudinally expanding locations of at least ~~said~~the portion.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein ~~said~~manipulatingforming
comprises bending at least one elongate compliant member carried upon a wall of at least ~~said~~the
portion.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein, upon ~~said~~
~~manipulating~~forming, ~~said~~the conduit at least partially supports ~~said~~the breathing apparatus.

24. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising substantially restricting
respiration through a nose of the individual.